

EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Meeting of December 2, 2009

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

Members Present: Bill Strassberger (Chair); Marva Deskins (Vice Chair); Eric G. Luedtke (Parliamentarian); Thomas J. Aylward; Amjad M. Chaudhry, G. Stanley Doore; David M. Kochanski, Esq.; Peter Myo Khin; Allan Mulligan; Dwayne H. Parris; Alfreda H. Payne, Ph.D.; Odessa Shannon.

Members Absent: Anthony Ramirez (Secretary); Kim Bobola, Ph.D.; Vanessa E. Ali; Saschane M. Stephenson; Benoy Thomas.

Member(s) Withdrawn: Dwayne Parris

Staff: Joy Nurmi, (Director, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center) and Anjoo Chohda (SEAA, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center)

Guests: Pam Saul (Staff, Sen. Rona Kramer; District 14, Montgomery County); Barbara Foresti (White Oak Master Plan); Mina Davidson (County Council staff); Bob Sylvester (Valley Stream Homeowners); Mark Pharaoh (ECRAB); Maria Germany (North White Oak Civic Association); Lucy Yost (Volunteer, Montgomery County Volunteer Center); Maya Mimms (University of Maryland); Kristin O'Connor (Senior Planner, M-NCPPC); Tom McNamara (President, GCCA); Sandy Whitley (Citizen); Jeanette Der Bedrosian (Gazette reporter); Kim Jones (former ECCAB member); Mara Parker (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office); Lou Giacchino (President, Hillandale Citizen Association); Delegate Karen S. Montgomery (District 14, Montgomery County); Harry S. Montgomery (spouse of Delegate Karen S. Montgomery); Robert Jepson (Executive director of public strategy and communications, Washington Adventist Hospital); Jere D. Stocks (President, Washington Adventist Hospital); Geoffrey Morgan (Vice President, Expanded Access, Washington Adventist Hospital); Lydia Parris (Director, Communications, Washington Adventist Hospital)

Chair Strassberger welcomed everyone to the board meeting.

Citizen's Forum: Asked the guests to introduce themselves and share their concerns with the board. The floor was opened for questions.

Guests – gave a brief introduction.

Maria Germany – commented on County's progress in environmental work.

1. Pointed out issues on a parcel - Route 29 and New Hampshire Avenue; the proposed site for the 3rd District Police Station. It is a very fragile piece of land. Ms. Germany mentioned the possibility of it serving as a forest conversation area and to highlight the environmental policies of the county. It is next to the White Oak Library, across Quaint Acres, where Rachael Carson lived.

2. Because residents are not familiar with the counties environmental policies, she would like to have educational materials on Rachel Carson be displayed at the libraries and nearby schools. She needs guidance on how to share the information at County offices on behalf of the community.

Joy Nurmi - The proposal for this property you are referring to is for a police station and possibly an affordable housing project. We will assist with the county policy and procedures.

Tom McNamara - agrees that the development of police station is fine but affordable housing is not acceptable. It is at a very congested intersection.

Bob Sylwester-expressed his concerns on illegal sign postings along route 198. He also complained about cars being sold along the side of the road.

Joy Nurmi - has already asked Permitting Services to do a sign sweep along a number of State roads. Suggested for future illegal sign postings, Mr. Sylwester notify Department of Permitting Services (DPS) where the illegal signs are posted. DPS will then send staff to clear the median of illegal signs In reference to cars being sold on sidewalks, we will have Chuck Crisostomo respond to you on this issue.

Sandy Whitley – shared her concerns on survey conducted by The Department of Environmental Protection on Hollywood Branch Stream. Proposed stream restoration is north of Randolph Road. She is not against the restoration project in its entirety however, she feels a lot of money is being spent on this project. She recommends that DEP move the project to the other side of Randolph Road. An open forum is scheduled on December 9th at 9:00 pm at Cannon Road. Also recommended that the bamboo not be replaced by new plants. There are lots of deer in the area and they would eat the new plants.

Joy Nurmi – Chuck Crisostomo has will work on this issue.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Chair Strassberger – announced presentations by Washington Adventist Hospital and from Non Profit Village.

Speaker- Jere Stocks, President, Washington Adventist Hospital

Thanked the Board for allowing a presentation. He distributed folders to members containing detailed information by WAH featuring “The Next Century of Health.” WAH has had its site plan approved and has filed a Certificate of Need with State in April; docketed in September. One of the silver linings of this current economic downturn is that the new White Oak location of the WAH will now cost \$96.2 million less to construct as originally estimated.

The project’s new price is close to \$468 millions, which is \$90 million less than anticipated. The hospital will sit on 23 acres of a the 48-acre site on Plum Orchard Drive near Cherry Hill Road and Route 29. It will have 288 beds in mostly single-occupancy rooms, along with emergency services, a center for spiritual life and healing, outpatient care and a lakeside walking trail. WAH is waiting for the approval of the revised Certificate of Need before the permitting process. WAH anticipates the certificate will be processed in January, and then construction can commence in the third quarter of 2010.

The floor was opened for suggestions, questions and answers.

Chair Strassberger – Thanked Jere Stocks for the update. Non Profit Village was called upon for the presentation.

Speaker- Kim Jones, Representative, The Non Profit Village

Kim introduced herself. Ms. Laura Sildon, Executive Director was unable to come due to conflict with another meeting. Ms. Jones gave background information on the Non Profit Village. The Village is partnered with Jewish Council for Aging and located close to Twinbrook Rockville Station. The Village is dedicated to meeting the workspace needs of community-based non-profit groups. The Village's mission is to develop and sustain the organizational and collaborative capacity of our tenants by providing affordable, attractive, shared office space accompanied by management and operational services. If your nonprofit organization needs a permanent office or simply a workstation to rent by the day or week, check out the Village at www.thenonprofitvillage.org or contact Laura Sildon at 301.230.0111. Ms. Jones will return in Spring to share more details.

Chair Strassberger – Thanked Kim Jones for the presentation.

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Strassberger asked for a review of the minutes of the ECCAB Meeting of November 4th 2009.

[December 2nd, 2009 - 1] A motion was made to approve the minutes of November 4th 2009. The motion was moved by Tom Aylward and seconded by David Kochanski and unanimously approved.

Director's Report – Joy Nurmi

The Director's report and attachments were emailed to the board.

Joy Nurmi highlighted the following items:

1. Update on H1N1 Clinic vaccinations.(information was emailed to members)
2. Reminded the Board about the Ethics and Open Meeting for Boards & Commissions meeting scheduled on January 20th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Executive Office Building in Rockville, Maryland.
3. Announced that Pulitzer Prize-winning literary critic Michael Dirda is scheduled to appear at the White Oak Library **on December 16 at 7 p.m.**
4. Reminded members that the IDA Sector Meeting is scheduled on January 21st at 9:30 a.m. at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center.

Chair's Report – Bill Strassberger

1. Dwayne Parris has resigned from the board due to a job change and increased commitments.
2. Martin Luther King Day – would like the committees to discuss a possible project at the sub-committee meeting.
Lucy Yost shared her comments (mentioned below)
3. Executive Committees – next week need to organize an Annual Pot-Luck Retreat for the Board scheduled to be held on January 9th 2010 at the Center from 9:00 a.m-12:00 pm. Need to discuss agenda items, issues, etc. The member sign-up sheet was circulated.
4. Annual Report – Committee chairs were asked to email Chair Strassberger a report by next Wednesday, December 9th

Lucy Yost, Volunteer, Montgomery County Volunteer Center – introduced herself. Shared information with the board on Martin Luther King weekend of January 16-18, 2010. It is a County wide event. The Annual MLK Day volunteer opportunities on **Monday, January 18, 2010 at the Marriott Conference Center** and the Regional Services Centers with the County's Volunteer Center are playing a leadership role. She encourages everyone to participate.

Council's Report:

Miti Figueredo, Chief of Staff from Councilmember Nancy Navarro's Office

Code and Enforcement legislation – The code enforcement legislation is still pending in the Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee, and Councilmember Nancy Navarro is supportive. She encouraged members to continue pressing the matter.

Mara Parker, from Councilmember Marc Elrich's Office

Received many emails on the code enforcement legislation. Mid-County Advisory Board is also advocating on this issue.

The Gaithersburg West issue has been delayed. Will be discussed later in January or February 2010.

Council's Growth Policy – will have an impact on the White Oak and Fairland area.

Election of new Council officers- Nancy Floreen has been elected as the new Montgomery County Council President and Valerie Ervin is the Council Vice President.

Committee Reports –

Outreach Committee: Amjad M. Chaudhry

The committee discussed holding an Art Show. The program details will be finalized this month. Attended the Montgomery County's Summit on the Future of Libraries on November 17th

Alfredda H. Payne, Ph.D – also attended the Library Summit and shared materials from the Summit.

Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee: Tom Aylward

The committee discussed Burtonsville Business district, ZTA and EZ Storage.

The committee discussed permit issues re: Chris Jones. Roylene Roberts is looking into the matter. The Giant and CVS permits are moving.

The portion of the Rt. 198 from Mcknew road to the Shemin Nursery- has some vehicle circulation problems, especially during peak hours.

He attended the EZ Storage community meeting on November 16th. There is a significant piece of underdeveloped land on Dino Drive that once developed should provide for the interconnection of Dino Drive with Star Point Lane. The Board needs to address a change in the traffic pattern at Dino drive and Star Point.

Colesville/White Oak Master plan – Randolph and New Hampshire Avenue is not built out as proposed in the Master Plan. Will study the plan – the crosswalk for pedestrians are missing.

Suggests that Committees to get involved with the traffic signal request at Quaint Acres.

Joy Nurmi –

1. Stated that a meeting with Sen. Rona Kramer, Councilmember Nancy Navarro, SHA officials, DOT, DED and DHCA is being held at to discuss Rt 28/298 through the Burtonsville Business District and also the revitalization of Burtonsville .
2. Dino Drive – Chuck will work with DOT on the traffic problems there. Montgomery County Police are aware of the situation. Mr. Sylwester and members of Valley Stream Homeowners will be invited. We then intend to invite SHA to discuss the issues.

Services Committee: Anthony Ramirez, Chair – Absent (No report)

Old Business: None

New Business

Marva Deskins- attended the November 3rd – PTA Elementary School Meeting which was held as mentioned by Andrew Winter, Principal, Greencastle ES. Marva will attend the IDA Sector meeting on January 21st at the Center.

Announcements –

Marva Deskins- Complemented the efficiency of the County's H1N1 clinics, very effective and prompt service.

Chair Strassberger - Old Columbia Pike overpass is not a very safe situation. Committees need to keep a watch. It is unsafe for pedestrians.

Chuck Crisostomo – mentioned discussing this issue with Ray Feldman from ICC, who assured me that temporary pedestrian pathways were in place which will be replaced with permanent sidewalk interconnections when construction is completed. SHA will attend the Board meeting to address the concerns if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. **The next meeting of ECCAB is scheduled for January 6, 2010.**